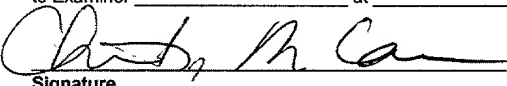


PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: MATTHEW DENESUK AND EUGENIE V. UHLMANN
For: AMUSEMENT ARTICLES POSSESSING MICROBE-INHIBITING PROPERTIES
Atty. Docket: 70961-26

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 CFR 1.8(a))	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231	<input type="checkbox"/> transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office. to Examiner _____ at _____
Date: <u>1 June 2001</u>	 Signature Christine M. Carr (type or print name of person certifying)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to examination in this application and before calculation of the filing fee, kindly amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please substitute the paragraph below for the corresponding paragraph in the original specification. The revisions to the paragraph are shown in the attached Appendix A.

The paragraph beginning at page 2, line 1:

This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent application Serial No. 09/059,826, filed April 14, 1998, which claims the benefit of provisional patent application Serial No. 60/043,014 filed 04/15/97.

In the Claims:

Claims 1-18, kindly cancel without prejudice.

Kindly add the following new claims:

47. (New) An amusement article according to claim 22 wherein the microbe-inhibiting agent is present from 0.001 to 10 percent by weight of the unitary piece of material.

48. (New) An amusement article according to claim 22 wherein the microbe-inhibiting agent or property is 3-trimethoxysilylpropylmethyloctadecyl ammonium chloride.

49. (New) An amusement article according to claim 22 wherein the microbe-inhibiting agent or property is 2,4,4'-trichloro-2'-hydroxydiphenol.

50. (New) A process according to claim 23 wherein the microbe-inhibiting agent comprises a microbe-cidal agent selected from at least one of the group consisting of heavy metal salts, halogenated dioxides, quaternary ammonium compounds, halogenated compounds, sulfur compounds, phenyl derivatives, phenoxy derivatives, thiazoles, chlorinated phenolic compounds, poly-substituted immine salts and phosphate esters, and mixtures thereof.

51. (New) A process according to claim 50 wherein the microbe-cidal agent is chlorine dioxide.

52. (New) A process according to claim 50 wherein the microbe-cidal agent is 2,4,4'-trichloro-2'-hydroxydiphenol.

53. (New) A process according to claim 32 wherein the microbe-inhibiting agent comprises a microbe-cidal agent selected from at least one of the group consisting of heavy metal salts, halogenated dioxides, quaternary ammonium compounds, halogenated compounds, sulfur compounds, phenyl derivatives, phenoxy derivatives, thiazoles, chlorinated phenolic compounds, poly-substituted immine salts and phosphate esters, and mixtures thereof.

54. (New) A process according to claim 53 wherein the microbe-cidal agent is chlorine dioxide.

55. (New) A process according to claim 53 wherein the microbe-cidal agent is 2,4,4'-trichloro-2'-hydroxydiphenol.

56. (New) A textile-based amusement article to be played with, enticed or retrieved by a domestic animal comprising:

an outer textile casing formed of a tough, chew-resistant material defining a shape in the form of a small article for luring or being fetched by the domestic animal and comprising a high-pile component attached to a backing material to form an artificial fleece, the material formed in two layers sewn together at the edges with the high pile component outwardly; and

a microbe-cidal agent applied to the textile casing in an effective amount and is selected from at least one of the group consisting of heavy metal salts, halogenated dioxides, quaternary ammonium compounds, halogenated compounds, sulfur compounds, phenyl derivatives, phenoxy derivatives, thiazoles, chlorinated phenolic compounds, poly-substituted immine salts and phosphate esters, and mixtures thereof.

57. (New) A textile-based amusement article according to claim 56 wherein the microbe-cidal agent is chlorine dioxide.

58. (New) A textile-based amusement article according to claim 56 wherein the microbe-cidal agent is 2,4,4'-trichloro-2'-hydroxydiphenol.

REMARKS

By the present amendment, the specification has been amended to insert reference to the parent application. In addition, claims 1-18 have been cancelled. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTHEW DENESUK AND EUGENIE V. UHLMANN

Dated: 6.01.01

By: 

John E. McGarry, Reg. No. 22,360
RADER, FISHMAN, GRAUER & MCGARRY, AN
OFFICE OF RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
171 Monroe Avenue, NW, Suite 600
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
616-742-3500

G0050032

097300-0204